

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 and add new claims 14 to 16, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A porous body comprising, ~~[[as]]~~ a porous sericin skeleton constituent ~~thereof~~, said sericin ~~with~~ having an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, and having a recovery rate of 10 to 100% after 50% compression.

2. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 having an average pore diameter of 0.1 to 5000 μm .

3. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.

4. (Original) The porous body of claim 1 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

5. (Original) The porous body of claim 4 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a porous body which comprises gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30000 to 400000, thereafter freezing the resulting gels and then melting the frozen gels.

7. (Original) The porous body of claim 2 having a porosity of 70 to 99%.

8. (Original) The porous body of claim 7 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

9. (Original) The porous body of claim 2 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

10. (Original) The porous body of claim 3 further containing a functional substance in an immobilized state.

11. (Original) The porous body of claim 10 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

12. (Original) The porous body of claim 9 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

13. (Original) The porous body of claim 8 wherein the functional substance is a living body-derived substance.

14. (New) A porous body comprising a skeleton consisting essentially of sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to 40,000 and having a recovery rate of 10% to 100% after 50% compression.

15. (New) A porous body obtained by gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to 40,000, thereafter freezing the resulting gel and then allowing the frozen gel to thaw.

16. (New) The porous body of claim 1 wherein said skeleton is obtained by gelling an aqueous solution containing sericin with an average molecular weight of 30,000 to 40,000, thereafter freezing the resulting gel and then allowing the frozen gel to thaw.